

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 37, 38, 42, and 43, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 20, 26, 39, 40, 44, and 45 as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A data communication system comprising:

a controller adapted to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes, wherein

the source node is adapted to transfer ~~object~~ one or more segment data asynchronously using the logical connection,

each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to ~~receive the object data~~ using the logical connection store the one or more segment data in a receiving buffer, and

each of the one or more destination nodes ~~informs the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for transfer of the object data~~ notifies information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node using the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the one or more segment data is completed.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A data communication method comprising steps of:

setting a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes;

transferring ~~object~~ one or more segment data asynchronously using the logical connection;

~~receiving the object data using the logical connection~~ storing the one or more segment data in a receiving buffer; and

~~informing the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for transfer of the object data~~ notifying information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node using the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the one or more segment data is completed.

Claims 27-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously added): A data communication system according to claim 20, wherein the logical connection is different from a logical connection set by another controller.

Claims 37 and 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): A data communication system according to claim 20, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes ~~are connected to a system~~ include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE1394-1995 standard.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A data communication system according to claim 20, wherein ~~the object data includes~~ the one or more segment data include one of image data and audio data.

Claim 41 (previously added): A data communication method according to claim 26, wherein the logical connection is different from a logical connection set by another controller.

Claims 42 and 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (currently amended): A data communication method according to claim 26, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes ~~are connected to a system~~ include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A data communication method according to claim 26, wherein the ~~object data includes~~ one or more segment data include one of image data and audio data.